

**Ambassador McCormick Speech at Civic Reception for
The Eternal Cloak Exhibition Christchurch Art Gallery
15 February 2007**

Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Katoa

I am grateful and humbled to be the representative of the visitors from the United States who have come here to ensure this exhibition is correctly handed back to the people of land here in the South Island of New Zealand.

I am honored to be here with so many of the native people of the United States, representing many tribes, and many proud cultures and traditions.

I am here with my wife Gail and our home is in Portland Oregon. We live across the Willamette River from the ancient native American burial ground of Elk Island.

We also have a country home in sight of the Cascade Mountain Range and near Warms Springs where the Eternal Thread exhibition was shown.

I am proud that the Eternal Thread was seen in Oregon and so well cared for by the native tribes of the Pacific North West.

These beautiful cloaks are now home again and the effect of their journey has been a very positive one.

There are now more long lasting friendships between us and a desire for our peoples to learn more from one another.

May we all continue to be enfolded - like a cloak - in the bonds of warm friendship.